MINISTRY OF H...

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1939.

"Hebron",
Brynmawr.

Sept. 19th, 1940.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Interim Report for the year ending 31.12.39.

Incidence of Infectious Diseases in the District.

There was an outbreak of Cerebro-Spinal Fever during the year. The first case was notified on the 16th January,1939. Thereafter, up to the 31st December 1939, 10 such cases were notified; the ages varying from 3 to 25. All were treated in the Isolation Hospitals in Monmouthshire.

There was a greater incidence of the disease among the males; 8 being males and 2 females.

There were two deaths; 1 male and 1 female; ages 5 - 10.

The Public were informed by hand-bills etc., about the danger of the disease spreading, and all precautions for finding the carrier were taken. Over 100 Throat Swabs were taken and sent to the Laboratory, but the Micro-Organisms were not discovered in any case. As a further precaution, all the Practitioners in the district were notified to be on the look out for any suspicious cases.

I experienced great difficulty in getting the patients removed to an Isolation Hospital, and very often there was a delay of 24 hours or so. There is no Isolation Hospital in Breconshire and I have stressed this many times to the Council, and pointed out the urgency of such a provision. But the outbreak of war has again set back any plans for such a hospital in the County.

There were 25 cases of Diphtheria during the year, as compared to 8 in 1938. All cases were treated, at home, by the various practitioners in the district.

Measles became notifiable in October, and from 31.10.39 to the end of the year, 58 cases were notified. All cases,however, were mild.

Water Supply.

There has not been any shortage of water during the year. The supplementary supply, by pumping, lately installed, has not been called on, and the filter beds are working well.

Sewage and Drainage.

These have been well maintained and the sewage and outfall works have been carried on quite satisfactorily.

Housing.

During the year 5 houses have been built by private enterprise. Although there are 78 houses now being erected by the Council, none have been completely finished. There is still a great need of new houses in the district.

Sanitary Inspection.

This has been carried out very well, but, in common with many areas, the work has been hindered by the outbreak of war, which brought many extra duties for local authorities and their staffs.

Milk Supply.

There are now only 2 cowsheds in the area, to which 14 visits have been made. One was found to be unfit and a notice was served, under the Milk and Dairies Order,1926, requesting the owner to carry out certain repairs and alterations in order to bring the premises to the proper standard as regards light, ventilation, drainage and cleanliness.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

The number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious or dangerous to public health as to be unfit for human habitation was 103.

Overcrowding. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.

(a) 1. No. of houses overcrowded at end of year.....90
2. No. of families dwelling therein.....98
3. No. of persons.....588

(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding during the year.....3
(c) 1. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....4
2. No. of persons affected in these cases.....26.

Six back-to-back houses have been converted into three through homes.

Seventeen movable vans and sheds have been removed by order of the Court, after legal proceedings had been taken against the occupiers.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant.

S.N. Chopra.